The Hampden Hippocrat

A Bulletin for the Hampden District of the Massachusetts Medical Society

VOLUME XVII FEBRUARY, 1961 NO. 2

Hampden District Medical Society

Founded 1840

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The Hampden Hippocrat

"Life is short and art is long, the occasion fleeting, experience fallacious and judgment difficult."
Hippocrates

Published monthly except July and August

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THE HAMPDEN HIPPOCRAT, FEBRUARY, 1961

EDITORIAL

INTERNAL RELATIONS

So much has been written of late about the importance of good Public Relations that the value of Internal Relations has been all but forgotten. And yet it is generally agreed that you can't have one without the other. How can we expect to improve our relation with the outside world unless singleness of purpose and unity of action prevail in our own midst?

It has been estimated that more than 95% of our misunderstandings with the public stem from less than 5% of the physicians in the area. Because some of these offenders are not members of our Society they do not come under its jurisdiction. They can't even be brought before the Grievance Committee. What does concern all of us, and deeply too, are those of our own members who wittingly or otherwise have strayed from the "straight and narrow". Their misdeeds reflect sadly on the rest of us, and damage the prestige of our profession, often beyond repair. The P-R program that could undo such mischief is yet to be found.

At the last Indoctrination dinner-meeting Dr. Allen Johnson observed that there was very little that could be done with the physician who had

"larceny in his heart". Codes of Ethics, Publicity Codes, etc. can't stop him. Somehow he always manages to find ways of circumventing no matter what the good book says. Fortunately their number is exceedingly small.

Of far greater significance are those of our membership who commit questionable deeds simply because they don't know any better. Here is where improved Internal Relations might have a great deal to offer. Some time ago the A.M.A. published the following list of suggestions for the improvement of Internal Relations:

"1. Establish a Monthly Newsletter or Bulletin.

2. Strenghten Committee Work.
   a. Proper number and type.
   b. The right kind of qualified leadership.
   c. Get in young fellows.

3. Build up attendance at Medical Society Meetings.
   a. Devote occasional meetings to medical public relations and medical economics.
   b. Or, devote five minutes of each meeting to public relations.

4. Develop and Maintain Strong Society Relations with Medical Students, Interns and Residents.

5. Train Office Staff in Public Relations."

Hampden District is blessed with many of these attributes. The big problem is to get all of the membership to use them, to participate in Society activities or to at least attend meetings. Our attendance, although better than the average District Society's, is still somewhat below the 50% mark. The suggestion that each active member make it his business to inspire another member to attend sounds worth trying, to say the least.

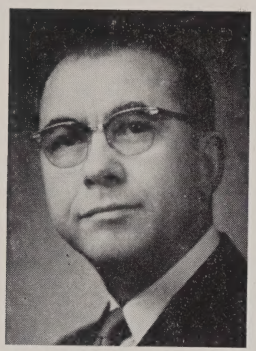
Public relation begins in the doctor's office and at the patient's bedside. This is axiomatic. Next comes good P-R programming, which, however, can succeed only with the solid and unequivocal support of the entire membership. Or, to put it differently, you can't have good P-R without establishing first of all good I-R.

M.

COUNCIL MEETING

Councilors representing Hampden District turned out in force to attend the second MMS Council Meeting of the season. This was held on Wednesday February 1, at the Boston Medical Library, Boston. The proceedings of this meeting will be reported in the next issue of the Hippocrat.

President's Page



OPERATION CENTER

At long last the HAMPDEN DISTRICT is to have a central area of operation—a HEADQUARTERS. Our address will be 1400 State Street, our telephone number will be RE 6-0661, and the title on the door; The Massachusetts Medical Society, Hampden District.

The HDMS now can coordinate its functional branches and activities so that it may operate more efficiently and effectively—for the benefit of The Sick of our area. Our files will no longer be spread all over the District in the offices of the officers and chairmen of our Society. Our business will no longer be transacted in piece-meal fashion by medical assistants whose primary function and major interest are—understandably—the medical practice of their boss. Correspondence will not be sidetracked; telephone inquiries will be answered more expeditiously.

The HDMS services to our community, such as; 1. Emergency Medical Service. 2. Mediation or Grievance Service. 3. Physician Referral Service—to name only a few. All will be channelled through our central office.

The chairmen of such important community service committees as: (1) The Religio-Medical Committee—liaison with the clergy, (2) Blue Shield District Professional Service Committee, (3) Insurance and Labor Relations Committee, (4) Medico-Legal Committee—liaison with the lawyers, and many other services all will be intergrated. This certainly should make for a better relationship between our Society and our community.

Our objective is to develop a facility (with room for expansion) where the public can reach us, where we can transact our business in a business-like manner, and where we may present ourselves as a unified, well organized, and effective instrument against the increasing numbers of people who are taking advantage of our splintered organization.

Alfonso A. Palermo, M. D.

ATTENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN!

In order to shorten the coming Annual Meeting the Executive Committee voted that not all annual reports need be presented at that meeting.

Reports which are purely informational in character may instead be published in the Hippocrat. The only two requirements are; (1) that the report not exceed the maximum of 300 words, and (2) that the report reach the desk of the Editor-in-Chief not later than March 20.

These reports will appear in the April issue of the Hippocrat prior to the Annual Meeting, which is scheduled to take place on April 25.

Reports containing "recommendations" will have to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Chairmen of sub-committees will not present reports at the Annual Meeting. They will report instead to their respective Parent Committees.

Your co-operation is urgently requested.

Ray T. Smith, Secretary

AVOID CONFLICTING MEETINGS

The Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society will be held in Boston on May 22, 23 and 24. In order to encourage everybody to attend, members of our District Society are urged to cancel hospital conferences, and to avoid scheduling all other meetings during the three-day period of the State Meeting.

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oral fulvicin

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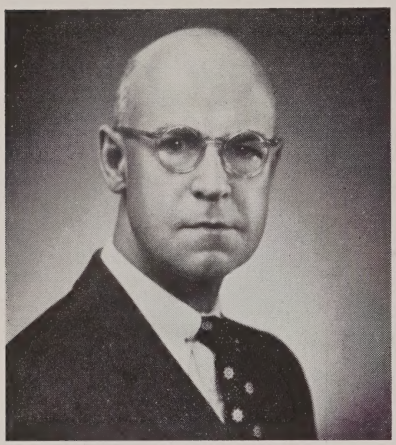
DOCTOR JOHNSON RETIRES



Early last month, after 31 years in private practice, Dr. Allen S. Johnson turned over his office to his successor and announced his retirement.

Throughout the years, Dr. Johnson has served the Hampden District Medical Society well. Elected a Councilor about 10 years ago, he continued in that capacity to the present time. In May, 1959 he was elected Executive Councilor, a position he still holds. In 1957, he was elected President of our District Society, and displayed his talents as an able leader and parliamentarian.

On the state level he is best known for his many years of service on the Committee on Ethics and Discipline. In addition he has been a member of many other committees, at one time serving on seven of them simultaneously. At present he is a member of the Committee on Public Health. In 1948, he was elected Orator of the State Society.

For many years Dr. Johnson was Secretary of the Staff of the Springfield Hospital and later served as President of the Staff. He is also a former Physician-in-Chief.

Dr. Johnson received his pre-medical education at Yale University, graduating in 1922. He then went as a Rhodes Scholar to Oxford University where he received a degree in physiology in 1925. In 1927 he received his M.D. from Harvard University, going from there to the University Hospital in Cleveland for his internship and residency. He began private practice in Springfield on April 1, 1930. Dr. Johnson, is a Diplomate of the Board of Internal Medicine and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians.

Although retiring from active practice, Dr. Johnson will continue his long interest in organized medicine, and especially in the affairs of H.D.-M.S. and M.M.S.

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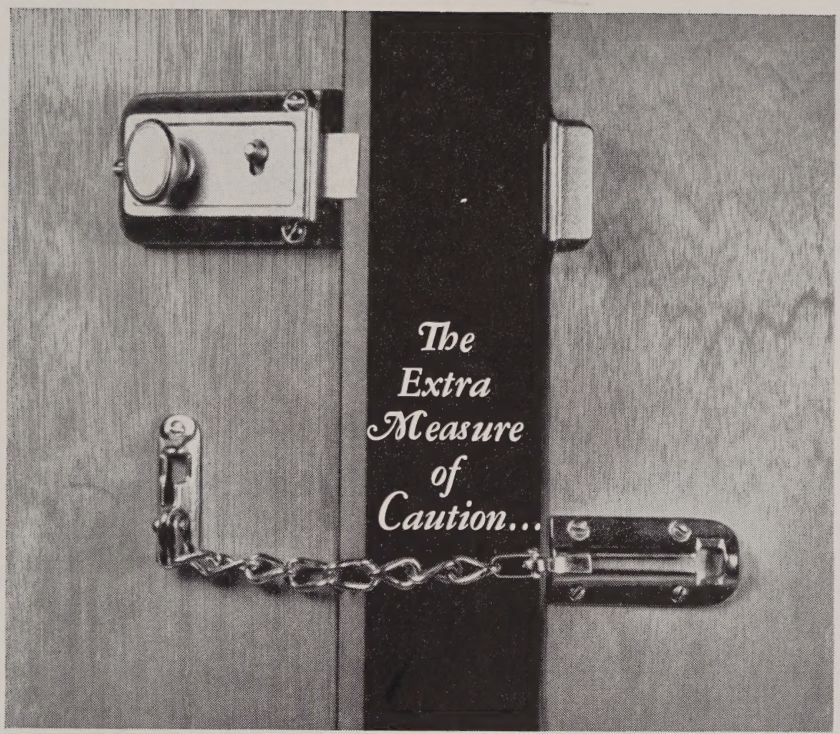

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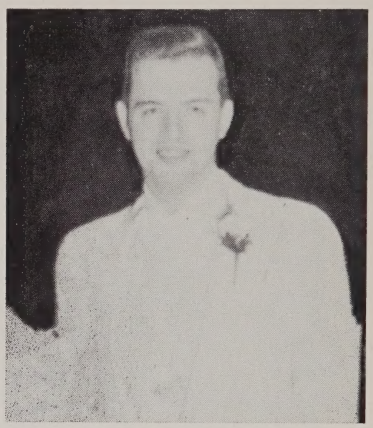
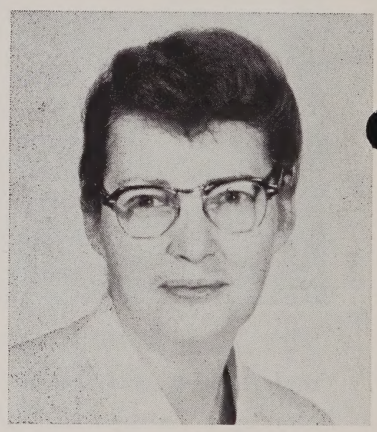


JEAN P. AUCOIN, M. D.
Born: Chicopee, February 2, 1933

Office: 1160 St. James Ave., Springfield

Medical School:
Jefferson Medical College, 1959

Internship:
Mercy Hospital, Springfield 1959 - 1960
Specialty: General Practice



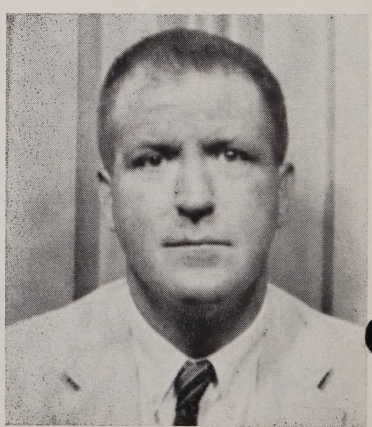
PHOEBE L. COX, M. D.
Born: Holyoke, December 17, 1913

Office: 160 Suffolk St., Holyoke

Medical School:
Magill University - M. D. 1947, PhD. 1952

Internship:
Holyoke Hospital, Holyoke

Specialty: General Practice



ROBERT D. HARRINGTON, M. D.
Born: Sept. 29, 1925, Fall River, Mass.

Office: 42 Ridgewood Terrace, Springfield

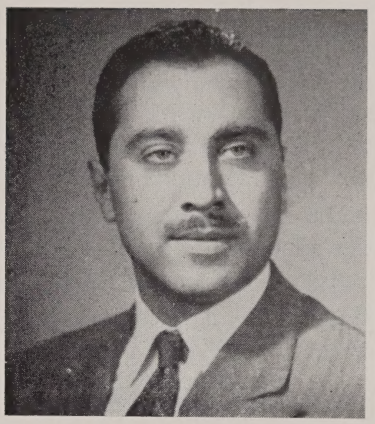
Medical School:
Tufts, 1952

Internship:
Rhode Island Hospital,
Providence, 1952 - 1954

Residencies:
University of Colorado Med. Centre,
Denver, Colorado, 1956 - 1959

Specialty: Psychiatry

. . . . . NEW MEMBERS



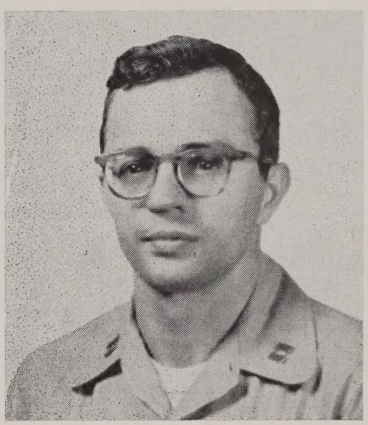
AGOSTINO NATALE, M. D.
Born: Caserta, Italy, June 3, 1928

Office: 249 Union Street, Springfield

Medical School:
Universita di Napoli, 1953

Internship:
The Springfield Hospital
Residencies: The Springfield Hospital
Westfield State Sanitorium

Specialty: General Surgery



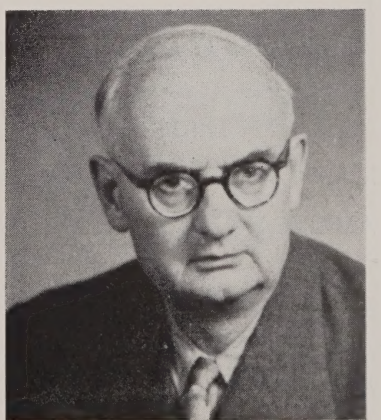
ROGER E. PARENTEAU, M. D.
Born: Chicopee, September 13, 1929

Office: 731 Grattan Ave., Springfield

Medical School:
Jefferson Medical College - 1955

Internship:
Mercy Hospital, Springfield

Specialty: General Practice



JOHN M. ZYTKIEWICZ, M. D.
Born: Chicopee, June 9, 1900

Office: Holyoke Soldier's Home, Holyoke

Medical School:
University Poznan (Poland) 1925

Internship:
Poznan City Hospital

Specialty: Internal Medicine

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The January 17, 1960 meeting of the Executive Committee was held at Municipal Hospital with Dr. Palermo presiding and Drs. Miller, Brown, Whitney, Corcoran, Klibanoff, Burkhart, and Pfeiffer attending.

Dr. Palermo announced Dr. Vassos was appointed to the Blue Shield Committee to replace Dr. Hayes who has been elected president of the staff of Wesson Memorial Hospital.

Dr. John Burke will take part in a panel discussion on Socialized Medicine at A.I.C. on February 15.

It was stressed that any physician representing medicine through any of the public media should secure clearance of the Society as per the Publicity Code.

Colonel Hoffman of the Westover Air Force Base has offered to present a program on Aerospace Medicine.

The question of an office for the Society was discussed at some length.

A letter from Mr. Berry, Springfield Department of Health, Education and Welfare, requested cooperation with this Society in promoting the resolution of the A.M.A. relative to physical education in local schools and colleges.

The Grievance Committee met, considered one case and found for the physician.

Ray T. Smith, M. D.

ROBERT F. KELLY
REG. OPTICIAN
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Eyeglass Prescription Specialist

COMING EVENTS

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF ALLERGISTS, GRADUATE COURSE AND ANNUAL CONGRESS, MARCH 12-17, STATLER HILTON, DALLAS, TEX.

SPRINGFIELD ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, MARCH 14, 1961, MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF GENERAL PRACTICE, APRIL 17 - 20 MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

HAMPDEN DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY, ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 25

M.M.S. ANNUAL MEETING, BOSTON, MAY 22, 23 and 24

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 26 - 30, NEW YORK CITY

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS: SECTIONAL MEETINGS FOR SURGEONS AND GRADUATE NURSES, PHILADELPHIA, MARCH 6 - 9

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, MIAMI BEACH, MAY 8 - 12

THE CHOSEN TOPIC

The three most often repeated words on college campuses throughout the country this year will be: *Compulsory Health Insurance.*

More than 5,000 college and university students, taking part in the 1961 National Intercollegiate Debate program, are currently discussing the proposition: That the United States should adopt a program of compulsory health insurance for all citizens.

The discussion question was chosen through an annual poll of debating coaches throughout the country by the Committee on Intercollegiate Discussion and Debate of the Speech Association of America. Each student engaged in the intercollegiate debate must learn both sides of the question.

Colleges and universities are now holding intra-school elimination contests. From there, invitational debates will be held among schools on a regional basis.

A highlight of the year's debating activity will take place next Spring at the United States Military Academy, West Point, N. Y., at which meeting regional forensic champions from leading universities will compete in the national spotlight.

Patronize our advertisers and remember to mention the Hippocrat.

World Population in 1960.—According to the December, 1960, issue of *Population Bulletin,* the world population is growing at an annual rate of 1.7%. It is estimated that over 100 million babies were born during 1959 and that 50 million people died. The world's 10 largest countries are Mainland China, nearly 700 million; India, 403 million; USSR, 210 million; USA, 178 million; Japan, 93 million; Pakistan and Indonesia, 80-90 million each; Brazil, 64 million; Federal Republic of Germany and United Kingdom, over 50 million each. Latin America is growing more quickly than any other major region. These and other details about world population are revealed in the United Nations *Demograhpic Yearbook* for 1959.

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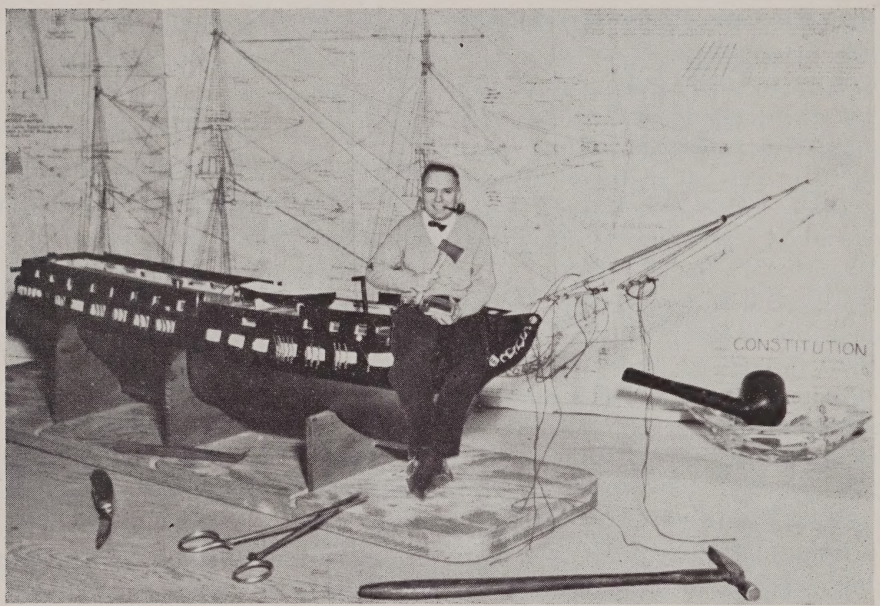
VIII — Ship Model Making



The lore of ship model making is as old as the sea itself and has been practiced by sailors through the centuries. Samuel Pepys was one of the most avid collectors, having access to the excellent admiralty scale models. French prisoners, at the time of the Napoleonic conquests, in British prisons made fine models from the bones in their beef rations. Prosperous Bostonians spent their evenings reproducing the clipper ships which brought the wealth of the orient into their harbor. Whaling ship models hung from the ceilings of the entrance halls in many a New Bedford home. Many a ship was rigged in a bottle to be traded in a liberty port for rum or a suitable souvenir. This pastime has not lost its popularity although it has somewhat degenerated of late with the advent of plastic prefabricated models. Some purists, however, are still to be found and will always be found as long as men continue to follow the sea.

My introduction to model making occurred while watching my skipper reproduce a scale model of his submarine rescue vessel. He did that out of scrap wood from the actual ship's plans, while the gunner's mate was faithfully constructing an old privateer. It was inevitable. The keel was laid on an old fleet type submarine in my stateroom. After many trips to the pattern shop, many forays to the dental suite to use the drill, and frequent consultations in the bosn's locker, a model was forthcoming. This fell far short of Bushipʼs standards for recognition models. Nevertheless it was a start.

In 1952, work began on a solid scale

model of the United States Frigate, "Constitution", (Old Ironsides). This has proved to be an arduous and perhaps much too industrious a task. Progress has been slow and sporadic ever since. This ship has always been an inspiration to all Navy men, particularly those who have operated out of Boston, where she is now berthed in her true majesty, with all masts stepped, ship-shape, and in good repair, a shrine of American democracy. One may board her and have a vicarious taste of square-rigger seamanship. It is difficult, if not impossible to buy a model of this fine ship and the only way to own one, if you have your heart set on it, is to make one.

There are several ways to go about making a ship model. Perhaps the most common is a solid hulled version using templates, traced from the plans, particular care being taken to fashion each curve and inclination. A graceful hull assures beauty in the finished product. The other method, involves laying a keel and building up the hull piece by piece adding actual planking and even the copper bottom which was standard in this era of ship building. Proper placement and fore and aft rake of the masts is extremely important for lifelike appearance. In this class of ship the distance between the fore and main masts would be one half again as great as the distance between the main and mizzenmasts. Particular emphasis is placed on this point by prominent nautical artists. It is important to make the model large enough so that the small details, which add so much to realism, may be adroitly handled. For example great difficulty was encountered at the point of threading the deadeyes on the fighting tops, the work being so fine as to require the use of a loupe, very fine tweezers and rigging threader, the latter always breaking at critical points. It is also worthwhile to review the common knots to be sure that they will not part under stress. Facility with a few such as the clove hitch, and the square knot being indispensible.

It is debatable, at this point, whether or not this ship will slide down the ways and the champagne broken out. This, however, is perhaps not the important consideration. The many hours of pleasure and relaxation have been well worth any degree of frustration experienced to date. It is amazing what can be done with a few inexpensive hand tools, some wood, bamboo, solder, thread, wire, paint and beeswax. My drill press has been extremely helpful with finger pieces, the hand alone being too unsteady. It is also planned to install a small lathe and sander in my "snug harbor", a refuge from three erstwhile shipwrights who are always threatening to sabotage the rigging with a football.

The most challenging personal aspect of model making is gaining a working knowledge of naval parlance and usages, similar in a sense to the introduction to Latin or Greek gram-

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mar. Many of the terms are second nature to one who has been to sea, but many passed with the advent of "steam". Rarely does one have the thrill of seeing sails these days, academy training ships being the sole exceptions. New England is a fine place to study ships and seamanship. Mystic seaport, many of the old hulks along the Maine coast, e.g. Bath, several fine nautical museums in Boston, at Annapolis, and in many of the banking houses of the East, and our own Springfield museums are of great reference value.

Everyone is enthralled with the idea of putting a ship in a bottle. This is not as hard as it may seem, particularly once you have started. The hull is made in two parts, the lower section being secured in a putty sea painted in oils with quick drying shellac added. The upper half is then inserted and glued to the base, the masts' sails and superstructure neatly flattened on the deck. Prearranged lines are then drawn tight and the masts drawn into the upright position, slipping into holes in the deck. The choice of the bottle is important, a pinch bottle adding magnification. It is easier to do this if the bottle is emptied prior to insertion of the model, preferably by someone other than the worker, particularly should the contents be alcoholic in nature.

There is no more pleasing sight than a full rigged ship on the mantle, an object of pleasure for many years to come. This model need not be perfect provided the basic lines are faithfully portrayed. Many model ship chandlers are at your beck and call. Sharpen your jacknife, practice a few knots, and open a yard of your own.

William Byrnes, M. D.

MEDICAL READER

'Yppocras' is now a hero!

Many times and oft—hopefully not too oft—we have cited the Father of Medicine as our inspiration since we purloined his name as our title. In November last we even gave you his most recent portrait as restored. But it remained for Dr. Wilder Penfield to bring to life this almost mythical figure as the hero of a novel, 'The Torch', published in 1960 by Little Brown and Company, Boston and Toronto, 367 pp., $4.75.

Let me answer your quizzical eyebrow by the reassurance that you will lay down the book with increasing reluctance once you have plunged, as Horace advised, *In medias res,* what with vivid descriptions of the golden days of ancient Greece, the bearded Asclepiads, the muscle-bound boxers, and especially the black and blue eyed charmers in diaphanous chitons with much to reveal.

To medical readers, the clinical information may seem like spoon feeding, just as captious critics might refer to the over-generous Penfieldian exhibition of erudition in historical minutiae, but everyone must agree that in structure and arrangement of the novel he has surpassed the Nobellist in his work on Dr. Zhivago. Above all, the character, motives and achievement of Hippocrates, though admittedly idealized, stand out in clear and believeable reality.

All this might seem surprising in

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an ex-Princeton footballer who went on to Oxford and then through Johns Hopkins to world leadership in the fields of neurosurgery, neuropathology and neurophysiology. But perhaps another world renowned neurosurgeon, Dr. Harry Cushing, may have inspired Wilder Penfield to take up the pen of creative scholarship.

E.P.B.

Editor's note: We hope e'erlong to have this book together with other Hippocratic memorabilia on deposit at the Library of the Springfield Academy of Medicine. For additional review of "The Torch", see N.E.J.M., Jan. 26, 1961.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Although more men, money and materials were committed to medical research in 1960 than ever before, it proved to be a year in which the physician's practice was most deeply influenced by developments in politics and the area of public policy. What came out of the laboratories had less impact than what happened at the hustings and the polls, in legislative chambers and hearing rooms."

Medical World News, 1/6/61

DUBIOUS DEFINITIONS

A kiss:

The anatomical juxtaposition of two orbicularis muscles in a state of contraction.

Youth:

A self limited condition. Given time recovery is almost certain.

Beatnik:

The in-between stage: too old for Castoria and not old enough for Serutan.

Photos on cover and page 12 by Henry G. Ring, M.D.

CORRESPONDENCE

Care of The Chronic

Dear Hippocrat:

Adult patients with any type of chronic disease (except mental illnesses) are now being admitted to Westfield State Sanatorium. When warranted by a patient's financial circumstances, the established rate of $15 per day can be reduced.

Referring physicians should speak to Dr. Joseph M. Houser, medical director of the chronic disease service. The telephone number is Westfield LOgan 2-2371.

May this information be brought to the attention of members of the Hampden District Medical Society?

Wilson W. Knowlton, M. D.
Superintendent, Westfield State Sanatorium

ACADEMY

March Meeting

At the March 14 meeting of the Springfield Academy of Medicine the speaker will be Harry Shwachman, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School and Pediatrician, Children's Medical Center, Boston. His topic will be "Inborn Errors of Metabolism". Clinical Conference will be held at the Mercy Hospital at 5 p.m.

April Meeting

The Speaker at the April 11 meeting will be Dr. Joe V. Meigs, Emeritus Professor of Gynecology, Harvard Medical School and Consulting Surgeon, Mass. General Hospital. His topic will be "Female Genital Cancer". Clinical Conference will be held at the Springfield Hospital, 5 p.m. Topic: "Problems of Genital Prolapse".

VITAL STATISTICS SPRINGFIELD, 1960

An unofficial analysis of death certificates of Springfield residents for 1960 revealed that a total of 1693 persons died during the year. This figure does not include Springfield resident deaths occurring outside of the City.

The ten leading causes of death were:

Death of Springfield Residents 1958

1.	Diseases of the heart	687
2.	Neoplasms	243
3.	Vascular lesions	227
4.	Pneumonia (all types)	167
5.	Accidents	66
6.	Diseases of early infancy	53
7.	Bronchitis	36
8.	Diseases of circulatory system	32
9.	Cirrhosis of liver	30
10.	General arteriosclerosis	21
	All other causes	127
	TOTAL	1689

Deaths from heart disease lead the list with 41%; next, cancer with 14%; third, cerebrovascular accidents with 13%; and fourth, pneumonia with 10%; and fifth, accidents with 4%. There were also 3 maternal deaths. Approximately 75% of the deaths were amongst those sixty years and above. Males predominated over females in the ratio of 1.06 to 1. As in the recent past, these death statistics point up the fact that chronic diseases, particularly those of the cardiovascular system are the major health problem of Springfield.

Deaths from infectious diseases during 1960 were:

Pneumonia	167
Bronchitis	36
Tuberculosis	1
Meningitis	1

Only two deaths were due to diseases considered to be officially dangerous to the public health. Most of the pneumonia and bronchitis deaths were undoubtedly a terminal insult superimposed upon some other prolonged strength sapping disease process.

The reported cases of infectious diseases were:

Reported Communicable Diseases in Springfield — 1960

Chickenpox	201
Dysentery	9
German measles	59
Hepatitis	34
Measles	1276
Meningitis	10
Mumps	302
Polio	3
Salmonella	21
Scarlet fever	379
Tuberculosis	45
Whooping cough	1

Although there is obviously an underreporting of the common communicable diseases of childhood, it is quite gratifying to see the low incidence of infectious diseases for which there are effective immunizing agents. The persistent prevalence of infectious hepatitis is most disturbing.

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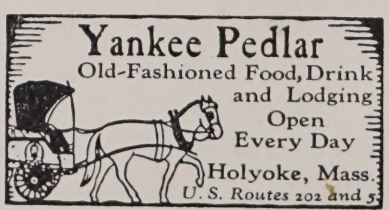

Analyzing the deaths for 1960 from accidents, some interesting facts are revealed. First of all, there were 8 deaths resulting from traffic accidents. Of these 8 deaths, 7 occurred in males with 6 of same in those between 20 to 40 years of age. Moreover, 3 of these deaths occurred to drivers of vehicles; 3 to passengers; and 2, to pedestrians. Falls at home killed a total of 39 people, particularly, women. Nine persons died as the result of burns and 4, as the result of drowning. Curiously, there was only one death from accidental poisoning and that was a middle-aged woman who overindulged in aspirin. So we must conclude that home is a pretty dangerous place, particularly, if one should be a woman and fall.

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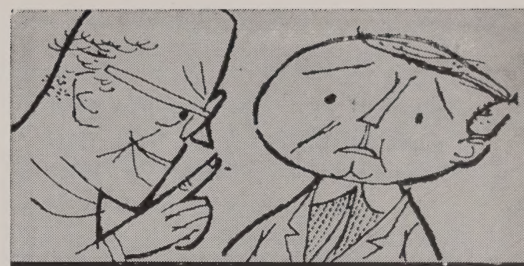

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COMMITTEE ON MALPRACTICE and MEDICO-LEGAL AFFAIRS (Interval Report, January 31, 1961)

The Joint Committee of the Hampden District Medical Society and the Hampden Bar Association met to discuss problems of mutual interest in an attempt to foster and maintain a high degree of cooperation.

The M-L Code was reviewed and it was decided that the original document was in need of no revision but should be read by each member of the two bodies from time to time to refresh failing memories. It was, however, agreed that the Med.-Legal Authorization form be changed to require the attorney's signature along with that of the patient.

The many complaints received from physicians were discussed and it was noted that most of these involved only a small handful of lawyers in this area. We have learned that what has been done thus far is not enough and further improvement can be accomplished only by a determined effort on the part of the Doctors concerned. To facilitate this the following suggestions are offered:

1. Although ample forms have been placed in the office of Clerk of Courts by the Bar Association, "We propose that the Hampden District Medical Society print a supply for distribution to the members and kept available in the various hospitals or any other convenient location".

2. You as surgeons caring for accident cases must consider it your responsibility and duty to have the authorization forms properly signed. We suggest the following procedure: Upon receiving a lawyer's letter requesting a report on a given case, you should send two of the forms with the statement that you will furnish the requested report when you receive a properly completed copy for your files.

3. Send duplicate bills every three or four months . . . One to the patient and one to the lawyer until the case is settled.

4. If the above procedures have been followed and you find your bill has not been paid after settlement, please report the details of the case to your committee for study.

Brief consideration was given to the development of a panel of medical experts appointed by the District Society to supply the courts with impartial medical examiners chosen in rotation as has been done in New York. The attorneys on the committee seemed to feel that the need here was not great

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enough. If the Medical Society wishes to pursue this subject further it would be best to develop an interest among the judges in this area. Perhaps this should be studied further by our society.

Atty. Fred Pillsbury informed us that the Bar Association wants to present a "Mock Trial" at some future joint meeting, but details have not been completed.

Wayne C. Barnes, M. D.
Chairman

REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCILOR
(January 31, 1961)

On January 18, 1961, the regular meeting of the Legislative Committee of the State Medical Society, was held at the Harvard Club in Boston.

Just prior to the meeting, a new legislature was installed. As usual, the "hopper" had a generous supply of bills pertaining to medicine and public health.

A total of 68 bills were presented during the Committee meeting; each was discussed and voted upon. These bills covered all of the aspects pertaining to medicine from accident prevention, drugs, fluoridation, hospitals, insurance, legal matters, public health and welfare.

It would be impossible to present and discuss each of these bills at a meeting of this type. However, I shall quickly read the intent of the bill, and if there are any members who wish more information concerning any individual bill, I shall try to enlarge upon the bill.

Robert W. Emery, M. D.
Legislative Councilor

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STATE LEGISLATION
(1960 - 61)

The following recommendations by the State Legislative Committee were made January 18, 1861.

HOSPITALS

H. 312—Oppose - Requiring hospitals to provide a recovery room for patients who have undergone major surgery.

H. 457—Oppose - Providing that certain charitable corporations or organizations shall be liable for the tortious acts of their employees.

H. 535—Oppose - To regulate hospital pharmacies in the same manner as retail drug stores and other pharmacies.

H. 996—No action - To provide a lien in favor of hospitals operated in Massachusetts, by the Veterans Administration, an agency of the United States.

H. 1132—Oppose - Providing that there shall be a doctor in attendance at all times in all hospitals.

H. 791—No action - Relative to the determination of per diem charges and costs of proprietary hospitals.

H. 1853—Oppose - Increasing the amount of the lien hospitals may have for services rendered to persons injured as a result of certain accidents.

H. 1981—No action - Authorizes any institution that has rendered services to a disabled person to file an application for assistance on his behalf with the department of public welfare.

H. 1944—Recommend problem be referred to a study. Relative to special duty nursing and whole blood furnished as special services in hospitals. (Rep. G. F. Doherty).

H. 2480—Oppose - Establishing a hospital at Logan International Airport. (Rep. Nazzaro).

H. 2457—No action - Establishing a Metropolitan District Hospital Commission, said commission to take over the complete operation of the Boston City Hospital.

H. 2456—No action. Authorizing the acquisition of the Boston City Hospital by the State Department of Public Health.

H. 2423—Oppose - Requiring the footprints of a new born child to be taken and records kept in every hospital where a child is born; and every physician who attends the birth of a child in a place other than a hospital shall cause the footprints of the child to be taken as soon as practicable.

H. 2034—No action - Providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to the administrative practices of the Boston City Hospital in connection with charges made to patients for medical services.

INSURANCE

H. 2401—Oppose - Authorizing medical service corporations to contract for surgical and dental services. (Rep. Ansel).

LEGAL

H. 232, H. 231—Approve - Exempting registered physicians from civil liability for treatment given under emergency conditions. This is the Society's "Good Samaritan" proposal. Exempting registered physicians from civil liability for treatment under emergency conditions. Another version. Filed by Rep. Mullen.

H. 227—Approve - Authorizing the use of medical depositions at trials in the absence of attending physicians.

H. 459—Oppose - Relative to admissibility in evidence in cases of contract or tort for malpractice of certain statements of fact or opinion contained in published treatises, periodicals, books or pamphlets. (Rep. Khachadoorian).

S. 105—Approve - Granting tenure of office to certain medical examiners and associate medical examiners.

MEDICAL SCHOOL

Following considerable discussion, the Committee voted to refer the matter to a sub-committee for study and report to the Committee.

MISCELLANY

H. 1950—Oppose - Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special unpaid commission for the fees charged by members of the medical profession to the public. (Filed by Rep. Pigaga).

H. 1952—Oppose - Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission of the fees charged by dentists and oculists (sic) for their services. (Filed by Rep. Waterous).

H. 2474—Oppose as written - Authorizes and directs the Department of Mental Health to establish out-patient psychiatric clinics throughout the Commonwealth.

H. 2057—Oppose - Memorializing Congress of the U. S. to pass legislation granting medical assistance to the aged under the Federal Social Security Act and eliminating the pauper's oath. (Rep. Piemonte).

H. 297—Approve - Further regulating the membership of a medical panel to be appointed to examine a member of the retirement system seeking to be retired for disability.

NURSING

H. 922—No action - Providing that school nurses shall be certified by the board of education.

H. 1700—No action - To establish a registered nurses course of training. A three-year course at Massachusetts Soldier's Home and Lemuel Shattuck Hospital.

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OPTOMETRY

H. 1854—No actoin. Should be studied further. Conferring jurisdiction upon the Supreme Judicial Court and Superior Court to Restrain Violations of the Optometry Laws upon Petition of the Attorney General, the Board of Registration in Optometry, or a Professional Society of Optometrists.

PUBLIC HEALTH

S. 322—Oppose - Requiring all local boards of health to use disposable syringe units when giving innoculations.

S. 325—Oppose - Requiring chest x-rays for food handlers.

H. 43.—No action - Increasing the penalty for violation of regulations for the prevention of occupational diseases caused by ionizing radiation from $100 to $500.

H. 61—Approve - Reorganizing the department of public health.

H. 73—Approve - Regulating the sale and delivery of certain devices intended for the general treatment of disease.

H. 531—Oppose - Directing the Department of Public Health to require every person practicing medicine within the commonwealth to register with certain boards of health or health departments for assignment for a monthly 24-hour public call duty. (Filed by Rep. G. F. Doherty).

H. 62—Approve - Providing for reorganization of tuberculosis care, treatment and control.

H. 1951—Oppose - Authorizing and directing the Department of Public Health to establish heart clinics in suitable locations throughout the Commonwealth, with sufficient facilities to provide free examination to all residents of the Commonwealth.

H. 2248—Approve - "Immediately" should be clarified, "within 72 hours" was suggested. Providing for the commitment of persons addicted to drugs, and authorizing the Department of Public Health to designate places or institutions as drug addict rehabilitation centers. (Filed by Rep. Armstrong.)

S. 106—Approve - Relative to the salary of the Commissioner of Public Health.

WELFARE

S. 13—Oppose - A resolve memorializing Congress to enact legislation to provide all retired persons 65 and over a $200 monthly pension and medical and funeral benefits.

H. 316—No action - Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to the costs of prescription needs and drugs furnished welfare and old age assistance recipients.

H. 779—No action - Relative to furnishing of medical care to recipients of old age assistance.

H. 1410—Oppose and H. 1671 - Relative to children's responsibility for medical assistance furnished to their aged parents.

H. 1980—Approve - Authorizing any person or institutoin who has furnished services to a person, the right to appeal any decision of the Department of Public Welfare, relative to the application of such person for disability assistance.

ADDITIONAL BILLS

S. 359—Establishing a Board of Registration of Kennels and regulating the operation of kennels. **Oppose.**

H. 2535—Relative to Medical Records to be used in proceedings before the Industrial Accident Board. **Oppose.**

The bill reads:

"Section 20 A. Any employer, employee, or insurer who has in his possession or subject to his control, any medical record, hospital record, x-ray, doctor's report or other medical material relating to a matter pending before the board shall, wtihin twenty days after a written request therefor made by one of said interested parties, furnish a copy of the same at cost, or, in the alternative permit such party to examine the same. No such medical material shall, upon objection, by the requesting party, be admitted into evidence unless such written request is complied with."

H. 2559—Chiropractic Bill. **Oppose.**

H. 2558—For an investigation and study by a special commission relative to establishing a regional hospital program. **No action.**

H. 2568—Transferring the Board of Registration in Medicine from the division of civil service to the department of Public Health. **Oppose.**

R. W. Emery, M. D.
Legislative Councilor

COMPLIMENTS
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A HOBBY FOR YOUR PATIENT

Among the many facilities to improve the lot of its senior citizen Springfield has a very unique and successful Hobby Club.

The Springfield Hobby Club, a Red Feather Agency, occupies the lower floor of the Y.M.C.A. building on 85 Hillman Street. Here supplies are kept and instructions given. Members looking for a new hobby receive help in choosing something that fits their strength and skill. Others may prefer recreation such as cards, pool, shuffle board and games. There is never a dull moment at the Springfield Hobby Club.

The medical profession is urged to refer their problem patients requiring new interests, new incentives and new horizons to the Springfield Hobby Club. The many active members of the club are living proof that a hobby can protect a person against the frustrations and tensions of everyday life. Many cardiacs and a few psychiatric patients, find here supplemental help against the hazards of inactivity and boredom. One of the activities of the Hobby Club is a volunteer group that offers help to hospitalized patients. The members of this group feel the satisfaction of fulfilling a real need in the community.

The various activities of the Springfield Hobby include the following: 1. Recreational facilities, 2. Craft classes, 3. A Municipal Hospital program through the use of volunteer workers conducting occupational therapy classes, 4. Maintaining a library for leisure time reading and for self education, 5. Counselling services. If a problem cannot be helped by the staff referral service, will be supplied to local resources, 6. Job Placement service, 7. A monthly bulletin announcing club activities and sharing of information of mutual interest, 8. Low cost lunches for members and workers, 9. Club store—affording an outlet for the sale of products of members' handiwork, and 10. An annual Hobby Show where members can display and sell their handiwork.

One of the most important of recent innovations is the Springfield Hotel Accommodations, which has resulted in letters of inquiry from many states in the country.

The physician of this area can play an even greater role in solving the health problems of his older patients if he will avail himself of the services offered by the Springfield Hobby Club.

Theodore Schwartz, M. D.

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AUXILIARY DOINGS

The remainder of the program of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Hampden District Medical Society for 1960-61 is as follows:

February 14, 1961, 9:30 a.m., Morning Meeting, Wesson Memorial Hospital Auditorium.

Speaker: Dr. Calvert Stein

Topic: "Hidden Springs of Human Actions"

Mrs. Calvert Stein, Chairman; Mrs. Bennett Barton, Co-Chairman

April 15, 1961, Annual Luncheon Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Springfield Country Club

Speaker: Mr. L. De Santis, Taylor Wine Company

Topic: "How Wine Flavors Food and Compliments a Luncheon"

and

Installation of Officers by Mrs. William E. Hines, State President.

Mrs. Eugene W. Beauchamp, Jr., Chairman; Mrs. Lester G. Suzor, Co-Chairman.

Mrs. Eugene J. Nicgorski,
Publicity Chairman

HOW TO WRITE YOUR SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN

1. Be brief.

2. Be straightforward and sincere, giving your own ideas in your own words. Do not follow a form letter.

3. Be friendly and courteous.

4. Do not use carbon copies. Write each man individually.

5. Sign your letter legibly and always include your address.

Honorable Benjamin Smith
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Leverett Saltonstall
United States Senator
141 Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Edward P. Boland
U. S. Congressman
2nd Hampden District
House Office Building
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Honorable Sylvio O. Conte
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HIGHLIGHTS
JANUARY (31) MEETING

Place: Storrowton . . . Members in attendance 175 (against 227 reservations) . . .

President Palermo calls meeting at 8:20 . . . Reading of minutes of previous meeting is dispensed with . . .

Seven new members are introduced . . .

Dr. John Burke, it is announced, will represent Society at A.I.C. Forum on Socialized Medicine . . . Dr. Mozig to replace Dr. Hayes on Committee on Insurance, Labor Relations and Industrial Accidents . . . Dr. Vassos to replace Dr. Hayes on Blue Shield District Professional Service Committee . . .

Matter of Executive Secretary is considered . . . 5 plans or alternatives are presented (see Jan. issue of Hippocrat) . . . Executive Committee recommends Plan #2 . . . Trustees of Municipal Hospital and Academy of Medicine are receptive to plan . . . Motion to approve Plan #2 is debated at length . . . Amendment that members of the Auxiliary serve as "Girls Friday" to provide the necessary technical and secretarial assistance is defeated . . .

Original motion recommending Plan #2 is carried . . .

New revision of by-laws is considered . . . Section dealing with reconstruction of Executive Committee is hotly debated . . .

Informational reports are received from Committee on Malpractice and Medico-Legal Affairs (Dr. Barnes), and from Legislative Committee (Dr. Emery) . . . Meeting adjourns at 10:20.

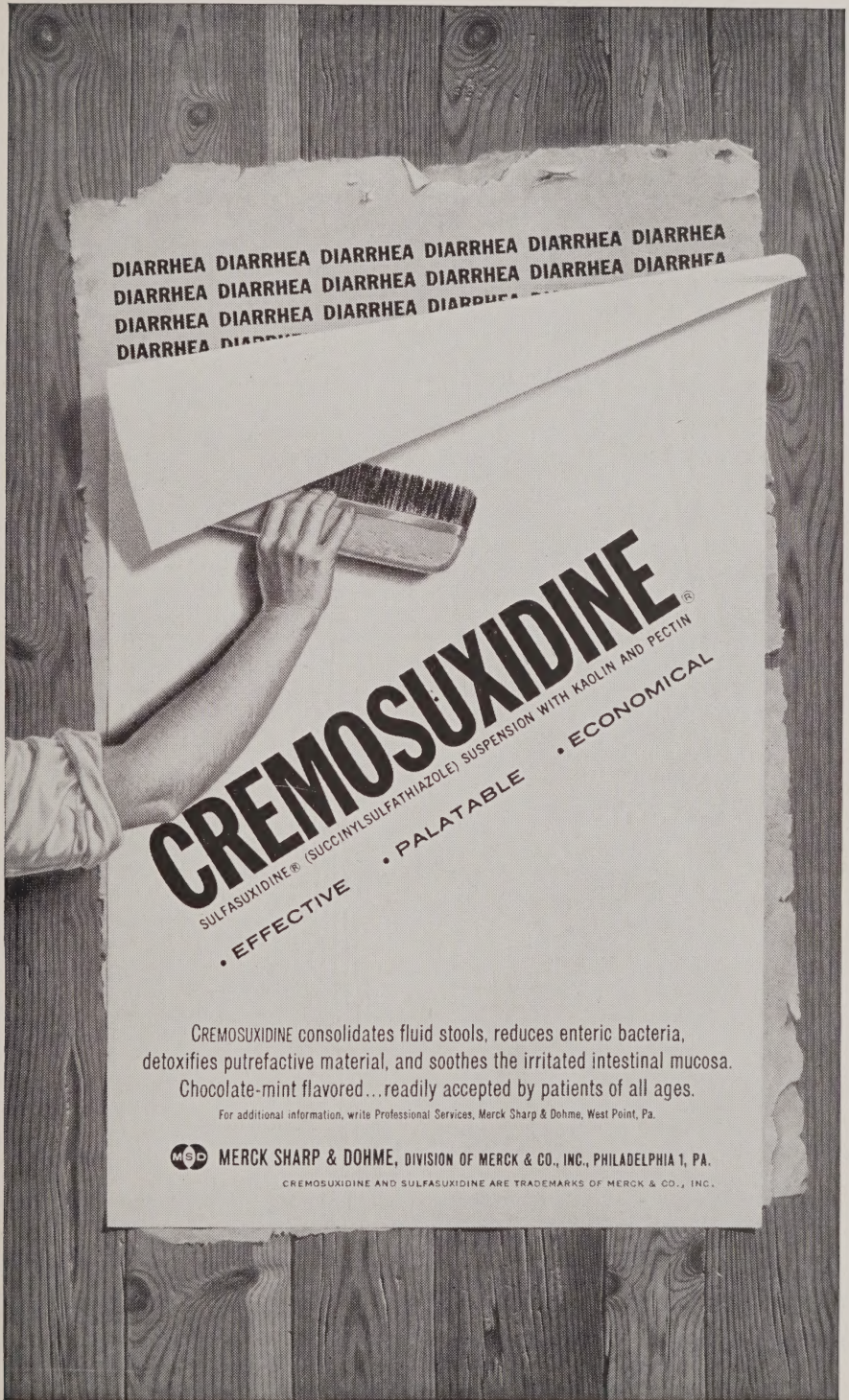
IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT:

Our own Dr. Walter W. Williams is Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Fertility.

* * *

Most hospitals are called "hospitals", but they also go by 41 different names, including among others, lodge, retreat, guest house, farm, sanitarium, village, inn, preventorium, sanatorium, facility, infirmary, hall, center and dispensary.

The opinions expressed in The Hippocrat do not necessarily represent the official viewpoint of the Hampden District Medical Society.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